

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-12 and 14-19 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-12 and 14-19 were rejected in the June 29, 2007 Office Action.

No claims have been allowed.

Claims 1, 6 and 11 are amended herein

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-12 and 14-19 remain in the present application.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

In Sections 4 and 5 of the June 29, 2007 Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-12 and 14-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,011,971 to *Jolma*, (hereinafter, simply “*Jolma*”) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0034947 to *Soliman*, (hereinafter, simply “*Soliman*”). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Referring to Figure 4 (reproduced on the next page), in column 5, lines 33-41, *Jolma* describes a terminal equipment MS moving from the cell 40 to the cell 41 and carrying out a soft handover from BTS12 to BTS11. However, as described in column 5, lines 42-53, it is not until the MS moves into cell 42, served by BTS22, that the system of *Jolma* performs a hard handoff from BTS11 to BTS21. That is, *Jolma* describes a system that performs a hard handoff of the MS from BTS11 to BTS21 not while the MS remains solely within a shared coverage area of BTS11 and BTS21, but after the MS has moved into a coverage area of a third base transceiver station, BTS22.

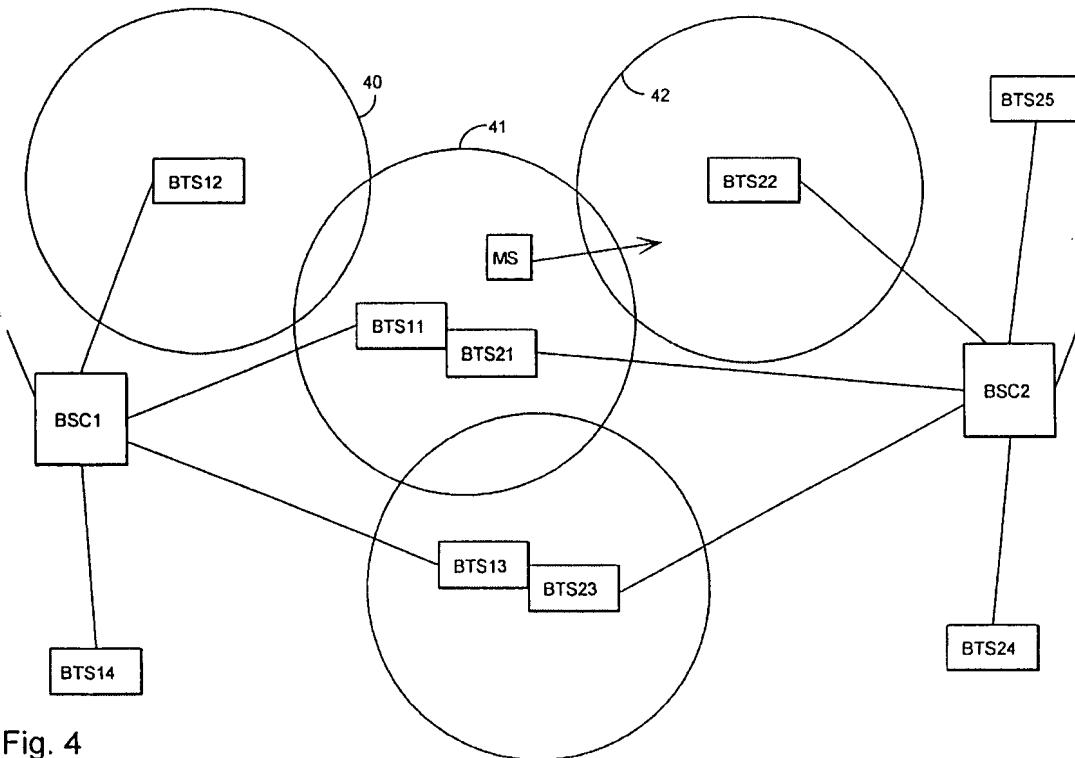


Fig. 4

In contrast, amended independent Claim 1 recites a border base station in a first wireless network, the border base station including a base station controller and a transition base transceiver station that is located in proximity to a second base transceiver station in a second wireless network. The base station controller is operable to perform a hard handoff when a mobile station has reached a hard handoff region solely within a shared coverage region of the transition base transceiver station and the second base transceiver station.

For at least these reasons, Claim 1 is patentable over Jolma. The Applicants submit that Soliman does nothing to overcome the shortcomings of Jolma. As such, Claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Jolma and Soliman. Claims 2, 3 and 5 depend from Claim 1 and include all its limitations. Therefore, Claims 2, 3 and 5 also are patentable over the cited references.

Amended independent Claims 6 and 11 recite limitations analogous to the novel and non-obvious limitations of Claim 1 discussed above and, therefore, also are patentable over the cited references. Claims 7, 8 and 10 depend from Claim 6, and Claims 12 and 14-19 depend from Claim 11, and include all the limitations of their respective base claims. As such, Claims 7, 8, 10, 12 and 14-19 also are patentable over the cited references.

The Applicants also disagree with the Examiner's rejections of Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-12 and 14-19 based on additional misdescriptions and/or misapplications of the Jolma and Soliman references to at least some of Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-12 and 14-19. However, the Applicants' arguments regarding those other shortcomings of the Jolma and Soliman references are moot in view of the Claim 1 arguments above. The Applicants reserve the right to dispute in future Office Action responses the appropriateness and the applications of the Jolma and Soliman references to the claims of the present application, including the right to dispute assertions made by the Examiner in the June 29, 2007 Office Action.

**SUMMARY**

For the reasons given above, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims and that this application be passed to issue. If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at [jmockler@munckbutrus.com](mailto:jmockler@munckbutrus.com).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

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